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*Un Cas de Dégénérescence psychique héréditaire.* Par Dr. JAKOWLEW.  
L'Encephale, 1887, No. 2.

The term "hereditary psychic degeneration" is proposed as the designation of a new nosologic group. Next to heredity, neurasthenia is the cause of most psycho-neuroses. The many phobias, which since Kowalewsky's work in 1885 are generally thought to be at bottom identical and named pathophobia, are among the most common indications of hereditary taint. The case, which is described at length, is of a prompter in a theatre aged thirty-six, and is of great interest and carefully studied, including compass and electrical measurements. The conclusions drawn by the author are that pathophobia, a sense of being possessed, and impulsive actions are products of the same conditions, and are attended by terror; that the patient is fully aware of the absurdity of his ideas (which circumstance distinguishes these cases from similar phenomena in cases of primary insanity), and that all these phenomena are connected with nervous weakness.

*Des Intervalles Lucides, considérés dans leur rapports avec la capacité civile des aliénés.* E. RÉGIS. L'Encephale, No. 2, 1887.

The unsatisfactory nature of present French legislation on the relations between crime and insanity has been recently pointed out in an interesting series of articles in *Le Progrès Médical* for the current year, by the magistrate, A. Martin, in *L'Encephale* and elsewhere. One of the most vital points for the safety of society, as is well known, is the conception of lucid intervals, of which Dr. Régis distinguishes three kinds—remission or attenuation of the more marked symptoms, complete momentary suspension of symptoms, and intermission or a complete return to the normal state between two attacks. The distinction between remission and intermission is especially insisted on. Both as to the nature and duration of the intervals French law is inferior to that of ancient Rome. A permanent departmental commission should consist of a doctor and an officially subordinate administrator to minimize the present difficulties.

*Diseases of the Nervous System.* Vol. V of *A System of Practical Medicine* by American Authors. Edited by William Pepper, M. D., LL. D., assisted by Louis Starr, M. D. Philadelphia: Lea Bros, 1886. pp. 1317.

This large volume is made up of contributions from twenty-three eminent American practitioners, including Drs. Robert Edes, C. K. Mills, Weir Mitchell, J. J. Putnam, E. C. Seguin, E. C. Spitzka, Allen Starr, and H. C. Wood, and contains nearly sixty diagrams. The articles on general semiology, localization, mental diseases, hysteria, hystero-epilepsy, catalepsy, ecstasy, and disorders of speech are of especial value for students of psycho-physics. These topics, as well as many others treated in this volume, have now come to be represented by so voluminous a French or German literature, that even special students in the neurological field are bewildered in seeking a serviceable knowledge on these themes in continental publications or clinics. Such guidance this book is intended to afford. To specialists, as well as to the general practitioner, this volume is far the best in this field in English. That there should be repetitions, as well as great inequalities of merit in the different